

REMARKS

This paper amends claim 1 and adds new claims 8-10. Support for the amendment can be found, e.g., at FIGs. 3, 4A-4C, 7A-7D, 8A-8B, 9A and 11 and page 6, lines 1-17. Support for the new claims can be found, e.g., at FIGs. 7A-7D and 9A, FIG. 11, and FIG. 9B. Upon amendment, this application will have 2 independent claims (claims 1 and 10) and 9 total claims (claims 1-6 and 8-10). Thus, no official fee for excess claims is necessary.

In section 2 of the Office Action dated May 27, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiroshi (USP 5,995,186). Moreover, in section 3, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. (US Patent No. 6,642,984). In section 4, claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshi or Yoshida et al. in view of Wiltshire (US Patent No. 5,313,562). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Hiroshi teaches a liquid crystal display comprising electrode pair inclined at an angle with respect to a gate line (41) to form parallel electric field (13), wherein the electrode pair includes substantially straight data and common electrodes (48, 49). However, Hiroshi fails to disclose that "all the [pair of] electrodes [of which the first end of the first electrode facing and the second end of the second electrode with a discharge gap therebetween] being parallel with each other" and "the first end [of the first electrode] facing the second end [of the second electrode] with a discharge gap therebetween", as recited by amended claim 1 of the present application.

Yoshida teaches a liquid crystal display apparatus comprising one substrate having a plurality of stripe electrodes extending parallel to each other, and the other substrate having a transparent electrode covering substantially the whole surface thereof, so as to reduce the disclination D (as shown in FIG. 5C) occurring at the central portion of the one-pixel region (10b). However, Yoshida fails to disclose that "all the (pair of) electrodes [of which the first end of the first electrode facing and the second end of the second electrode with a discharge gap therebetween] being parallel with each other" and "the first end [of the first electrode] facing the second end [of the second electrode] with a discharge gap therebetween", as recited by amended claim 1 of the present application.

The Examiner asserts that either Hiroshi or Yoshida et al. in view of Wiltshire (USP

5,313,562) teaches the feature of "the display cell comprises a plurality of electrode pairs with an end-to-end arrangement, and the electrode pairs are parallel to each other", as recited by original claim 7, which depends from original claim 1. As the Examiner described, the combination of the end-to-end arrangement of electrode pairs as taught by Wiltshire with the liquid crystal device as taught by either Hiroshi or Yoshida teaches the invention. The electrode pairs taught by Wiltshire are end-to-end arranged and orthogonal disposed as shown in FIG. 1 and 7. Wiltshire fails to disclose "all the electrodes [disposed on the first substrate] being parallel with each other, each pair of electrodes consisting of: a first electrode ... and a second electrode ... the first end [of the first electrode] facing and the second end [of the second electrode] with a discharge gap therebetween".

Turning to new claim 10, the Applicants believe that Hiroshi, Yoshida, Wiltshire, standing alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest "four electrodes disposed on the first substrate and at corners of each display cell", as recited by amended claim 10 of the present application.

Due to the reasons stated above, it is therefore Applicant's belief that claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-6 and 7-9 are also patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

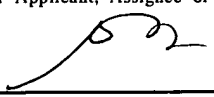
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(Date of Deposit)

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(Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative)




(Signature)

8/24/04

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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